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For Immediate Release

New Agency Development Fund strengthens new and emerging social service agencies

\$826,586 invested in strengthening community-based agencies by York Region in the past two years

NEWMARKET – York Regional Council today received an update on the recent activities of the New Agency Development Fund (NADF). In total, 10 projects received \$389,966 in funding in 2010 and 11 projects received \$436,620 funding in 2011.

“York Region has invested \$826,586 in new and emerging community-based agencies in 2010 and 2011,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “Investments like these enhance community services and strengthen the supports that are available to meet the growing and increasingly diverse needs of York Region residents.”

The New Agency Development Fund’s goal is to develop agency organizational structure and capacity so that community agencies can begin to provide services that fill the gaps in the Region’s social service system.

“The New Agency Development Fund provides new and emerging agencies with tools to help sustain themselves now and in the future,” said Markham Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Chair of the Region’s Community and Health Services Committee. “They also participate in a series of professional development sessions to help them achieve future success and effective service delivery.”

Examples of 2010 and 2011 NADF investments include:

- **GTA Faith Alliance** provides an opportunity for low income and at risk youth aged 14 to 24 to develop skills and training in computer repair. NADF support enabled the agency to set up a computer lab in the Town of Richmond Hill, develop and distribute communication materials and establish partnerships with mainstream social service agencies to provide a participant referral base.
- **Mind Body and Soul Self Help Centre** provides non-traditional mental health supports such as low-cost fitness, nutrition and self help programs to individuals. As a result of NADF support, the Centre established a location and has experienced a growth in referrals from a variety of health care networks and an increased demand for its services.
- **Moving Forward 2015 Foundation** offers interest-free micro loans to low income individuals for a variety of supports, including return to school and furniture for those newly housed. Through NADF an executive director will be hired to focus on partnerships, developing a marketing campaign and a fundraising strategy, recruiting volunteers and board members and researching other funding opportunities.

Newly formed not-for-profit or charitable agencies (less than five years at the time of application) that deliver social services to York Region residents and meet eligibility criteria may be considered for NADF support. Eligible agencies must support the Region’s health and community services priorities and mandates on the following areas:

- Homelessness programs and services
- Family and Children’s strengthening programs and services
- Employment Supports, including programs that support self-employment
- Public Health programs that complement regional health initiatives

Interested agencies are invited to apply for funding through the next community-wide call for proposals process beginning in fall 2011. More information is available at www.york.ca/nadf

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

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